

# *Upcounty Annual Report*

**Fiscal Year 2012  
(July 2011-June 2012)**



*Prepared by the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board  
in cooperation with the  
Upcounty Regional Services Office  
Montgomery County, Maryland*





## *Montgomery County Executive*

Isiah Leggett

## *Montgomery County Council*

Roger Berliner, President

Nancy Navarro, Vice President

Phil Andrews

Marc Elrich

Valerie Ervin

Nancy Floreen

George Leventhal

Craig Rice

Hans Riemer

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*Upcounty Citizens  
Advisory Board*



## **UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

### **LETTER FROM THE CHAIR , 2011-2012**

It has been an interesting year serving as Chair of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board for 2011-2012. Our enthusiastic board members from the northern area of the county are a dedicated group who share a vision of improving Montgomery County for both current and future generations. Individually, they represent the diversity of our community. Collectively, they have an incredibly broad knowledge and experience base which contributed to rich and thorough discussions on many issues.

It is our role as a representative board to present the concerns and viewpoints of County residents on a variety of issues. This year the Board engaged in dialogue on a number of land use and quality of life subjects drawing not only on the Board's expertise, but that of numerous county officials and members of the community. The Board greatly appreciates the dedication of the people from county government, our state delegation, and private organizations who have given their time to keep us informed about issues that affect the Upcounty.

Given the delicate and emotional nature of some topics, the Board did not focus on achieving unanimous agreement on points in question but always sought consensus in the advice provided to the County Executive and Council. Various viewpoints, including those in the minority, were provided so that our elected leaders would have as much information as possible when making their difficult decisions. We believe the feedback we received indicates that we have provided a very valuable service.

In closing, the Board wants to sincerely thank the dedicated director of the Upcounty Regional Service Center. It has been with her guidance and support that the Board was able to accomplish as much as it did. The link between Regional Service Centers and Citizens' Advisory Boards remain strong and maintaining a critical communication link between Montgomery County Government and its citizens.

Respectfully,

Juan Cardenas, Chair

## About the Board

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/upcounty](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/upcounty)

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) provides advice and recommendations to the County Executive, County Council, and Upcounty Regional Services Director on issues affecting the northern portion of the county known as the “Upcounty” in addition to acting as a two-way communication link between the County and the community. The twenty volunteer members of UCAB are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

**Geographic Scope** The Upcounty region is defined as being roughly north and west of Shady Grove Road and it comprises about one-half of the geographic area of Montgomery County and one-third of its population. It ranges in character from urban to rural in communities such as Barnesville, Boyds, Clarksburg, Damascus, Darnestown, Derwood, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Goshen, Laytonsville, Montgomery Village, North Potomac and Poolesville. Therefore, UCAB’s members are selected for geographic balance as well as for diversity of background, community and professional experience and expertise.

**Structure** UCAB operates in public meetings and in 2011-2012 had two standing committees: the Land Use and Preservation/Transportation Committee and the Quality of Life Committee. UCAB’s leadership consists of the chairperson, a first vice-chair, and a second vice-chair along with the chair of the Land Use and Preservation/Transportation Committee and chair of the Quality of Life Committee. Other UCAB members also provide liaison to various other County boards and committees.

**Issues** Usually after an organizational retreat in July, the UCAB and each of its committees meets monthly from September through June. The UCAB’s committees study a wide variety of issues and help to craft the board’s resulting recommendations. The Land Use and Preservation/Transportation Committee has reviewed and commented on master planning practices in the Upcounty, issues related to urbanization, the County’s Growth Policy, development pressures on the Agricultural Reserve, the evolution of the Life Sciences Center at Shady Grove, issues faced by agricultural and related businesses, affordable housing, and growth of the Germantown Campus of Montgomery College. The Quality of Life Committee has reviewed and commented on out-of-school programs for youths, programs for immigrant families and children at risk, mental health services, library services, safety of young drivers and pedestrians, public safety, services for seniors, and the general health of the county’s community. Positions have been taken on many of these issues while others may continue to be examined for comment.

**Recommendations** During the year, UCAB interacts formally and informally with county officials, county and state agency staff, and community leaders in order to understand issues comprehensively before forwarding recommendations to the County Executive and/or County Council. UCAB also meets with the Executive during the year to discuss Upcounty priorities and to summarize their work at their annual meeting, and traditionally, the Executive’s priorities for both the operating budget and the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) have been responsive to UCAB’s recommendations. In the past, the Board has also hosted receptions for officials and community leaders in order to promote networking and the sharing of ideas. On an annual basis, the board meets with State legislators who represent the Upcounty area in the General Assembly, and various county department heads to explore issues and solutions. Additionally, UCAB traditionally hosts an annual forum to solicit community comments on the CIP. Those comments are then prioritized by the board and forwarded to Executive Branch departments and the County Executive.

The Upcounty Regional Services Director, Catherine Matthews, can be contacted at 240.777.8040 or via email at [upcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:upcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov).



# Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board

## 2011-2012



left to right sitting: Natalia Farrar (Shady Grove); Gail Robinson (Germantown); Rebecca Walker (Germantown); James King (Montgomery Village);  
left to right standing: Cherian Eapen (Clarksburg); Kevin Linck (Montgomery Village); Robert Nelson (Goshen); Matthew Leagan (Germantown); Scott Graham (Comus); Joel Cockrell (Damascus); Doug Noble (Damascus); Andres Aviles (Germantown); James Wallace (Gaithersburg); Robert Thompson (Darnestown); Oneil Ormsby (Montgomery Village); Juan Cardenas, Chair (Gaithersburg).

Not available when photo was taken:



*Pat Seals (North Potomac)*



*Beth Dafy (Dickerson)*



*Ruyan Teng (North Potomac)*

## ***UCAB Committee Chairs***

Land Use – Matthew Leakan

Quality of Life Issues – Natalia Farrar

## ***Liaisons to Other Boards and Committees***

Airpark Liaison Committee – Kevin Linck

Dickerson Facilities Implementation Group – Beth Daly

Germantown Master Plan Community Advisory Committee – Andres Aviles

Permitting Services Advisory Committee – Vacant

Shady Grove Implementation Advisory Committee – Natalia Farrar

Smart Growth Initiative Implementation Advisory Group – Andres Aviles and  
Kevin Linck

Speed Camera Advisory Committee – Oneil Ormsby

Upcounty Regional Recreation Advisory Board – Cherian Eapen



# *Issues and Positions*

# Year in Summary

Throughout the year, our Land Use and Quality of Life Committees examined issues that directly affect the Upcounty. Due to the complexity of many issues, the two committees often met jointly to explore subjects in great depth. Each committee laid the groundwork for elevating issues to the full Board for further discussion and/or to develop a recommendation for the County Executive and/or County Council. The following is a summary of highlights.

## **Land Use and Preservation/Transportation Committee**

The Land Use and Preservation/Transportation Committee of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board is tasked with assessing key land use and/or transportation issues that directly affect the Upcounty region. Throughout the year, discussions with public/private sector experts, community residents and businesses generally include diverse topics such as:

- County Land Use Policies, Legislation and Regulatory Changes
- Transportation Programs and Priorities
- Shifting Demographics and Market Trends
- Economic Development
- Environmental Protection and Historic Preservation

Committee members serving on other boards provided key updates on projects such as the plans to redevelop the County Service Park on Crabbs Branch Road, and the master planning of that area as designed in the Shady Grove Sector Plan. The participation of UCAB members serving on the Shady Grove Sector Plan Implementation Advisory Committee as well as the Smart Growth Initiative Implementation Advisory Group offers a more informed and pragmatic approach to ensuring that land use policies in the Upcounty region are supportive of the community's vision for healthy, vibrant and sustainable neighborhoods.

## **Capital Improvements Program for 2013-2018**

As part of the bi-annual Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget process, the UCAB hosted a community forum on July 13. Following a detailed presentation by Angela Dizelos, manager in the Office of Management and Budget, citizens from the community, county government, and members of the UCAB engaged in an open discussion of CIP in three areas—roads and bridges; public safety facilities; and recreation, parks, libraries, and schools. The discussion related to roads and bridges gathered most of the attention in the conversation. Among the items, a need for improvements to bicycle, pedestrian and vehicular access to the Boyds MARC station. Deputy Director Edgar Gonzalez indicated that he would have county staff look into the Boyds station and improvements in the Cabin Branch area of Clarksburg. Also mentioned were requests to improve safety along Stringtown Road. Funds were allocated for a study of the road.

It was noted that the temporary fire station in Clarksburg is providing relief in its leased space. WSSC is working on access to public water for a proposed station. The deed to the Sixth District police station at Watkins Mill Road extended has been obtained along with permits.

Citizens questioned the number of portables at schools but welcomed the scheduled build of the Aurora Hills middle school in 2015. After delays with permits, the Gaithersburg Library started construction in September. Funding for a variety of parks was also requested. ***Based on the input from citizens, on August 4, the UCAB composed a letter to the County Executive with the following recommendations:***

- ❑ ***Further study of the mid-county corridor based on opposition to alternative 4***
- ❑ ***Moving ahead with the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) in either light rail or bus rapid transit form.***
- ❑ ***Improvements to bike, pedestrian, and vehicular traffic on Stringtown and Snouffer School roads***
- ❑ ***Completing the traffic management system upgrade in the current year***
- ❑ ***Moving ahead with the Clarksburg Fire Station and the 6<sup>th</sup> District Police Station as soon as funds become available***
- ❑ ***Fully Fund the Board of Education's CIP request***
- ❑ ***Continuation of funding for the Germantown Town Center Urban Park, Darnestown Square Heritage Park, Seneca Crossing Park and the Magruder Trail.***

On February 7, these same priorities were delivered by testimony at the County Council public hearings on the proposed CIP budget.

### **Mid-County Corridor and M-83 Study**

The Mid-County Corridor (M-83) Study came up frequently in updates and discussions. At the CIP forum held on July 13, several attendees expressed opposition to the Alternative 4-Modified of the study saying it would result in disruption of many homes in its path.

### **Civic Leaders Forum**

The UCAB's meeting on October 17 included a forum in which several civic leaders were invited to attend and discuss priorities in the upcounty. Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, community and civic associations brought forth a variety of issues—the needed completion of road projects especially for economic development activities, support for a gasoline tax if the revenue was locked into the transportation projects fund, job creation, the Mid-County corridor study, the delayed renovation of the PlumGar Recreation center, gang activity, and speeding vehicles through neighborhoods.

### **Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)**

In the fall, the county received a \$260,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation for a study and began preliminary discussion on the envisioned Bus Rapid Transit system design and attributes. On February 27, a joint Land Use and Preservation and Quality of Life committees hosted an open house on the study underway. ***The UCAB noted that the BRT system has great potential for effective service in the downcounty, but it would have little impact on the upcounty because of fewer upcounty routes and those routes are being implemented in the later phases of the plan.*** It was also noted that the CCT was incorporated into preliminary plans.

### **Gaithersburg East Master Plan**

Mr. Steve Findley of the Planning department provided a presentation on the Gaithersburg East Master Plan to the Board on December 19. The area of study includes areas adjacent to Gaithersburg on the east side of I-270, including Montgomery Village and the Airpark. The UCAB noted that the study will take two and a half years to complete and will evaluate effects of municipal annexations, small-scale redevelopment opportunities, examination of mixed use zones as well as undeveloped properties, industrial needs near the airpark, and storm water management recommendations. The UCAB also noted that increased collaboration is needed with both Montgomery Village and the City of Gaithersburg on this project. Mr. Greg Ossont provided assurance that the Department of General Services would monitor the master plan process an implementation of the county's Smart Growth Policy. ***The UCAB intends to monitor findings and recommendations issued by planners during the course of the study.***

### **Smart Growth Projects**

On March 19, David Dise, director of the Department of General Services updated the Board on the County's Smart Growth projects including the Public Safety Training Academy, Public Safety Headquarters, Liquor warehouse, Ride On's Equipment Maintenance Operations Center (EMOC) and others.

### **Department of Permitting Services Streamlining the Development Process**

On April 16, the Director of the Department of Permitting Services, Ms. Diane Schwartz-Jones, presented her vision of improved operations and enhanced customer service for the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services, addressing several key processes that are being transformed as a result of community and other stakeholder input. She specifically described the Streamlining Development Initiative, a major cross-agency effort to improve the development application process. Changes in consolidating building inspections have been implemented while a major overhaul of the paper-based application process is being studied for a replacement by an efficient electronic system such as is already in use by adjoining jurisdictions. What was clearly good news is that the Department is committed to work with other agencies and the citizens of Montgomery County to make customer service more user-friendly and make it easier to navigate the development process and obtain building permits.

### **Clarksburg**

The Board received frequent updates from the Regional Director and County Executive on the status of road and other improvements in process including the agreement between the County and developers, Clarksburg Village, Inc., and Skylark LLC.

### **Quality of Life Committee**

The Quality of Life Committee spent the 2011-2012 year examining issues and concerns related to the quality of life in northern Montgomery County which often intersect with issues of interest to the Land Use and Preservation/Transportation Committee. The Committee has gathered information on a wide range of social, cultural, educational, recreational, health and safety issues. In a difficult financial environment, the committee has attempted to develop recommendations and actionable suggestions for the benefit of the citizens of the upcounty region that take into account these trying economic times.

### **Proposed Curfew Bill**

The UCAB does not shy away from the challenging topics. The discussion surrounding the County Executive's Youth Curfew proposal was one of those challenges. Discussions were held at the September 19 and October 17 UCAB meetings. In addition to UCAB board and community members, participants in the discussions included Police Chief J. Thomas Manger, Councilmembers Phil Andrews and Craig Rice, Mr. Michael Subin, of the County Executive's office, and Mr. Gabe Albornoz, of the Department of Recreation. *After deliberating the benefits of providing an additional public safety tool for police and parents, and the deterrence of gang activity, along with the possibilities for youth profiling, civil liberties curtailment and potential legal challenges, the Board voted narrowly to support County Executive Leggett's Bill 25-11 to establish a youth curfew in Montgomery County. A letter of support was sent to the President of the County Council on October 21.*

### **Public Safety**

From the discussion on proposed curfew legislation, the theme for increasing resources for the police department in the form of additional officers became apparent. This theme was later supported in both the October 17 Civic Leader Forum, and the County Executive's Annual Budget Forum.

*The UCAB recommended support for public safety in the form of additional police officers in the upcounty region in its March 7 letter to the County Executive. The release of the County Executive's recommended operating budget on March 15 included additional training classes to provide more police officers. The UCAB followed up with the County Executive's recommendation by providing public testimony before the County Council advising additional police and fire department resources.*

### **Emergency Management**

On October 17, the UCAB received an update on emergency management and preparedness from Mr. Chuck Crisostomo, from the County's Office of Homeland Security/Emergency Management. Resources and information for families faced with emergency situations was provided and members of the UCAB were encouraged to share the resources with neighbors in their communities.

### **Legislative Update**

The UCAB annually hosts a legislative update for districts 14, 15, 19 and 39. The November 21 meeting was attended by a state senator and six state delegates. Ms. Melanie Wenger director of the county's Office of Intergovernmental Relations launched the discussion with an overview of county priorities. In response to questions from the UCAB, the Maryland elected officials provided answers on educational issues, the proposed gas tax, upcounty transportation priorities, healthcare reform, juvenile justice, septic tank issues, abortion facility regulations and funding for services for those with disabilities.

### **Latino Youth Initiative**

The Latino Youth Collaborative Steering Committee performed extensive research to develop a report containing recommendations to address issues related to Latino youth. On January 30, members of the committee presented findings to the Quality of Life committee for feedback. Ms. Karla Sylvestre, of Montgomery County Community Outreach, along with Ms. Teresa Wright, community advocate, validated the work by demonstrating where efforts were under way to implement several recommendations. ***The UCAB pledged support and offered to sponsor a meeting inviting Latino parents to get involved with local government by meeting with planners and discussing the Gaithersburg East Master Plan.***

### **Citizens' Forum**

During the 2011-2012 efforts were made to involve more citizen participation in local government. The Board and staff provided support in addressing citizen concerns.

- A concern about “irrational and inconsistent tree trimming” that was brought to the attention of PEPCO officials in September.
- On February 13, a Germantown citizen reported streetlights out on Mateny road between Great Seneca Highway and Clopper Road, especially near the Willows Senior Center. They had been out for months with no response after calling county maintenance (not 311). The citizen also noted disrepair of the roadway which had not seen attention in many years. The UCAB received follow up reports from the citizen in March and April to report that the county had repaired streetlights, PEPCO had been called to repair electrical connections where needed, and traffic officials had personally contacted the citizen to discuss road repairs.

### **Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement Act (Proposed Ambulance Fee)**

The UCAB held a joint Land Use and Quality of Life committee meeting on April 23, during which a public discussion was held on the proposed Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement Act. Both sides presented formidable arguments. ***After deliberation, the UCAB voted 6 to 5, with 2 abstaining, in favor of supporting the proposed Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement Act.*** The majority cited the need to help raise revenue to offset potential shifting of teacher pension responsibilities and the unfavorable effects of the Maryland legislature’s “Doomsday” budget. It was acknowledged that most, if not all, the surrounding jurisdiction also have similar legislation in place and it would be a missed opportunity by “leaving money on the table.” The minority cited the 2010 election in which the voters rejected the ambulance fee proposal and the divisive nature of the issue among career fire fighters and the volunteer fire fighters.

### **Parks and Recreation**

In October it was noted that the new Darnestown Square Park (Town Center) began construction. On January 7, county residents joined the County Executive and Council members for a kick-off event for the renovation of the PlumGar Recreation Center. And on March 30, the South Germantown Recreation Park in Boyds opened the county’s first public cricket field. ***The UCAB has been and remains a consistent supporter of upcounty parks and recreation.***

### **The FY 2013 Operating Budget Forum and Recommendations**

The Upcounty Citizen's Advisory Board was pleased to host the County Executive's Annual Budget Forum at the BlackRock Center for the Arts on January 23. This event drew a large and diverse crowd, mostly from the northern part of Montgomery County. With approximately 60 people in attendance, the County Executive heard directly from residents about priorities to be considered. As in the past, a significant contingent was on hand to support the libraries, schools, transportation projects and others. However this was also an opportunity to present ideas—closer inspection of social services, school spending accountability, better terms on our debt service, cutting waste in duplicative services, and strengthening the partnership between government and non-profits in order to provide more funding for children, immigrants, and the elderly.

To help address issues related to Regional Service Center staffing, the UCAB leadership from all five Regional Service Centers met on June 7 and September 27, in order to share best practices and develop ideas to support the volunteer efforts of the boards. The primary areas of concern addressed included logistics for sharing resources, scheduling meetings, contacting/coordinating guest speakers, communications, and outreach.

*The UCAB provided testimony before the County Council on April 10, 2012, on the FY 2013 operating budget, recognizing the need for cost savings but urged the Council to ensure that the Regional Service Centers be adequately staffed to perform their vital functions. Several years of budget reductions have reduced the Upcounty Regional Service Center staff to one—a director with no other staff to direct. In the UCAB's view, our Regional Service Centers reflect the face of the county in individual neighborhoods providing both services and information. They also serve as a neighborhood resource for community members to come and have their voices heard.*

*Final testimony on the operating budget was provided at the April 10 County Council Operating Budget Public Hearing and reinforced our message to:*

- *Provide additional police officers and fire and rescue resources as proposed by the County Executive;*
- *Fully fund requested budgets by Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery College;*
- *Re-evaluate staffing at the Regional Service Centers. Cutbacks of the past three years have decimated staffing from 7 to 1*
- *Find a way to recognize our dedicated employees in a meaningful, yet responsible way; and*
- *Make efforts to restore some funding for libraries, positive youth development, and vital living for seniors.*

### **Other Interests**

**Gaithersburg Public Library** - *Late in the fiscal year, UCAB forwarded a recommendation to the County Executive to rename the Gaithersburg Public Library as the "Gaithersburg-Montgomery Village Public Library."* The Executive will make the final decision.



## *2011-2012 UCAB Guest Speakers*

September 19, 2011	Councilmember Craig Rice, Montgomery County Council Councilmember Phil Andrews, Montgomery County Council Chief Tom Manger, Montgomery County Police Gabriel Alborno, Director, Department of Recreation
October 17, 2011	Councilmember Phil Andrews, Montgomery County Council Michael Subin, Office of the County Executive Marilyn Balcombe, President, Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce Barry Fantle, President, Clarksburg Civic Association Charles Tilford, Greater Goshen Civic Association (representing President Kathleen Sentkowski) Hercules Twine, Plum Gar Community (representing Joe Nelson, Plum Gar Recreation Center Advisory Committee) John Clark, Town of Washington Grove (representing Mayor Georgette Cole) Charles Crisostomo, Planning Chief, Emergency Management/ Homeland Security
November 21, 2011	Senator Nancy King, District 39 Delegate Charles Barkley, District 39 Delegate Kirill Reznik, District 39 Delegate Kathleen Dumais, District 15 Delegate Shane Robinson, District 39 Delegate Eric Luedtke, District 14 Delegate Craig Zucker, District 14 Melanie Wenger, Director, Office for Intergovernmental Relations
December 19, 2011	Steve Findley, Department of Planning-Area 2, M-NCPPC Greg Ossont, Deputy Director, Department of General Services
January 23, 2012	Hosted County Executive Leggett's Public Forum on FY13 Operating Budget
February 13, 2012	Councilmember Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County Council
March 19, 2012	David Dise, Director, Department of General Services
April 16, 2012	Diane Schwartz-Jones, Director, Department of Permitting Services Qi Duan, Committee Evaluation and Review Board Janice Freeman, Committee Evaluation and Review Board
May 21, 2012	Parker Hamilton, Director, Department of Public Libraries
June 6, 2011	Joy Nurmi, Special Assistant to the County Executive (UCAB's annual meeting)

# *Testimonies and Correspondence*



## **UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

August 4, 2011

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
Montgomery County Executive  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

The Upcounty County Citizen's Advisory Board held its Capital Budget Forum on July 13, 2011 for the purpose of receiving input for the FY 2013–18 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The forum was well attended by residents and representatives of various county agencies. We also received public comments via mail and e-mail. Based on the information we have received, we submit the following recommendations for your consideration.

### **Transportation and Infrastructure**

- Further study of the Mid-County Corridor is recommended —this is an issue in which the community has not reached a consensus on a final plan. Of the several alternatives currently under study there is significant opposition to Alternative 4, citing the impact on current residents, environmental and historical repercussion and higher cost. Residents of Montgomery Village support no build, travel demand management, or MD 355 options. Clarksburg residents are eager for an alternative to the congested routes currently available.
- Residents of the upcounty are almost in complete agreement for moving ahead with the planned Corridor Cities Transitway. There is still no consensus as to light rail or rapid bus transit or other means, only that the CCT needs to move ahead.
- Improvements should be made to the bike, pedestrian and vehicular access to the Boyds MARC station to enhance safety and facilitate passenger access.
- Improvements should be made to Stringtown Road. Funds have been allocated for the design study which was scheduled to begin in July. Recommendations from the study, especially those that will improve safety, should be brought forward for construction funding.
- Maintaining funding in the Snouffer School Road area to accommodate the planned county service facilities relocating to the Webb tract is recommended.
- Upgrades to the County's traffic management system to ensure that technology is optimized and functions are made in a timely manner are recommended.

Isiah Leggett

#### Public Safety

- The citizens of the upcounty are extremely grateful for the two new fire stations in Germantown and the temporary station has provided much needed service to Clarksburg. As soon as funding becomes available, the permanent Clarksburg Fire station should be built and operations relocated from the leased space to the permanent site.
- Continuation of support for the construction of a new 6<sup>th</sup> district police station in the upcounty (along with the extension of Watkins Mill Road) is recommended.

#### Schools

- Excellent public schools are a hallmark of our county and our public schools' national reputation continues to be a primary motivating factor for young families and businesses moving into our community. In that context, we urge you to support the modernization of our public school facilities by working collaboratively with the Board of Education to undertake capital projects that will maintain the quality of our schools. As an area of strong population growth, the upcounty will require a new middle school (Arora Hills) and other expansion/modernization projects soon.

#### Libraries

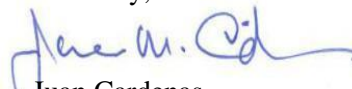
- It is our understanding that delays caused by storm water issues and permits have been resolved and that construction of the Gaithersburg Library can proceed. Residents eagerly hope a builder is selected in August and that construction begins in September. Although a significant effort, the temporary library does not provide all the library resources needed. UCAB recommends moving quickly to complete this project.
- The Clarksburg library is one of six in the CIP. It is strongly encouraged that by 2015 there will be an appropriation for the Clarksburg Library.

#### Parks and Recreation

- Continuation of funding for the Germantown Town Center Urban Park and the Darnestown Square Heritage Park is needed in order to maintain the current schedules.
- Funding for design and construction of the Magruder Trail from Damascus Recreational Park to the Damascus town center is supported.
- Timely development of the Seneca Crossing Park on the 26 acres donated to the county for that purpose is strongly recommended.

The Upcounty Citizen's Advisory Board and the citizens of the upcounty region appreciate the opportunity to offer these recommendations. I look forward to meeting with you on August 23.

Sincerely,



Juan Cardenas  
Chair



## **UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

October 21, 2011

The Honorable Valerie Ervin, President  
Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Ms. Ervin:

I am writing on behalf of the Upcounty Citizen's Advisory Board (UCAB) regarding the County Executive Leggett's proposed Bill 25-11, which would establish a youth curfew in Montgomery County. Following a lengthy discussion spanning three meetings, the UCAB has voted to support the bill (by a vote of six to five) as written with current amendments.

The debate on both sides was open, knowledgeable, supported by research and facts, and sometimes emotional. Clearly, the bill contains provisions which will help deter juveniles from both committing crimes and being victims of crimes during the proposed curfew hours. The primary benefits of the bill include:

- It provides law enforcement officials with an additional tool to prevent crimes involving juveniles less than 18 years of age.
- The bill will detract juveniles from engaging in gang activity.
- By restricting hours that young people will be out in public, it will prevent minors from becoming victims of crimes.
- Applying a curfew reduces the incidence of minors from neighboring jurisdictions crossing into Montgomery County to avoid curfews where they live.
- Parental authority will be enhanced since parents will have justification for setting household limits on when a teen or pre-teen has to be home.
- A curfew is an attractive crime deterrent because there will be a negligible budgetary cost effect.
- Because of the high degree of training and professional experience by our Montgomery County Police Officers, the UCAB is confident that profiling of certain youth will not be an issue.

The concerns of the individuals opposed to the bill include the following:

- There is little evidence of a widespread problem.
- The proposed bill, if passed as written, may likely be challenged in court.

Council President Ervin  
October 21, 2011  
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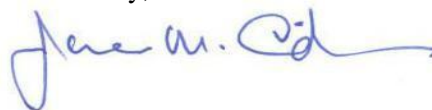
- There is no explicit mention of parental notification in the bill.
- There are too many exceptions in the bill, both in terms of acceptable activities wherein the curfew would not be invoked and actual jurisdictions where the bill would not apply at all.

During the discussion, various individuals submitted additional items for consideration. These included:

- A current assessment of juvenile crime/and crimes involving juveniles as victims should be provided with actual data along with projections/targets of crime reduction after implementation of the curfew.
- The county may want to consider a sunset date for the curfew some two or three years out from the date of initial implementation.
- A stronger curfew law containing fewer exceptions should be considered.
- Funding should be approved to conduct a multi-language awareness campaign.
- Clarify the impact on non-resident juveniles.
- Continue to pursue initiatives like the grant to acquire surveillance cameras for hot spots.
- Whenever possible pursue opportunities for positive youth development activities and include those activities within the curfew exemptions to encourage participation by juveniles.
- A process should be developed to expeditiously adjudicate complaints lodged under a curfew law.

As an advisory board, we appreciate the opportunity to provide input on matters under consideration before the County Council. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Juan M. Cardenas", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Juan Cardenas  
Chair

Copy to: Mr. Leggett, County Executive



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

January 3, 2012

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
Montgomery County Executive  
101 Monroe Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

The Honorable Roger Berliner, President  
Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett and Mr. Berliner:

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) would like to take the opportunity to express support for delaying implementation of the service changes proposed by the Maryland Transit Authority (MTA) in December 2011, to the MARC Brunswick line with a target date of January 30, 2012. The UCAB has not had the opportunity to formally take a position on the request for delaying the proposed changes; however, given the very short window before the only town hall meeting in Montgomery County to discuss the change, and that there is strong evidence the UCAB members support a delay, I feel confident the Board will recommend suspension of the new schedule until MTA is able to gather and process more stakeholder input.

We understand that the proposed schedule change is an attempt to improve service. Our primary concern is that service is improved for some MARC riders but at the expense of riders using Montgomery County stations. Under the proposed schedule Metropolitan Grove will lose two morning trains and one evening train. Passengers using the Boyds, Gaithersburg, and Washington Grove stations will also lose one train each. We feel that MTA is making an effort to hold informal town hall and 'meet the management' events, but these dates are too close to the planned date for the new service schedule and will not allow enough time for decision makers to assess input from the ridership and other affected stakeholders.

The UCAB has also noted the MARC Riders Advisory Council decision to support delay of the proposed Brunswick line schedule changes and feel that some of the general grounds for opposition stated in their December 6, 2011, letter to the Maryland and West Virginia Department of Transportation, should be entitled to additional consideration.

We thank you for your continued support for Montgomery County and in particular the residents of the Upcounty region.

Sincerely,

Juan Cardenas, Chair  
Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board



**Upcounty Citizen's Advisory Board**  
**Testimony for the County Council on the FY 13 CIP Budget**  
**February 7, 2012**

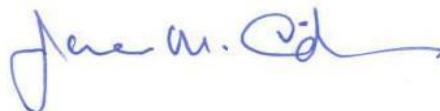
Good evening Council President Berliner, Vice President Navarro and council. For the record, my name is Juan Cardenas and I am the chair of the Upcounty Citizen's Advisory Board. We thank you for allowing us to provide tonight's testimony on behalf of the 300,000 citizens residing in the upcounty region.

We applaud the county executive's efforts to reduce the level of new obligation debt—debt service currently eats more than \$290 million of the operating budget. We feel it is important to hold the line on spending to maintain our county's excellent credit rating.

Our advice is shaped by the citizens who attend our meetings and by the neighbors in our communities.

- Our priorities include transportation and infrastructure projects including the Corridor Cities Transitway, improvements to Stringtown Road, Clarksburg Transportation Connections project, and Snouffer School Road near the Webb tract
- We have for several years recommended the upgrade of the traffic management system and now see that this project is entering its final phase. We push this project because we believe that it is more important than any road we could build. All you have to do is remember when the system malfunctioned in 2009
- We recommend the improvements in and around Montgomery College Germantown related to science and technology education and job training. With the new hospital, Germantown is poised to bring a hub of economic activity for the county;
- Funding of the new upcounty elementary school and several school modernization projects and maintaining critical school infrastructure—including HVAC replacement and PLAR (Planned Life-Cycle Asset Replacement) efforts;
- High School Wellness centers at Gaithersburg and Watkins Mill High schools.
- Despite the economic challenge, Montgomery County has not backed down from making improvements in the community. The groundbreaking ceremonies at Plum Gar recreation center and the Gaithersburg Library are testaments to the executive and council's commitment to the upcounty—we want to see these projects through as well as design plans for Little Bennett Regional, Seneca Crossing, and Germantown Town Center Urban parks. We understand the need to delay the Clarksburg Library, but please don't forget about it—we will remind you next year.

- We are pleased with the project for sidewalks needed in Hyattstown and sewer lines for the Clarksburg Historic District.
- In closing, I know we are asking a lot but we have one more item for you to consider—we are willing to wait until the time is right for funding the permanent 6<sup>th</sup> District Police station. We understand that District 2 and 3 have needs that are more urgent. We would like you to consider adding police officers in the operating budget. That along with working with the state on plans for the Watkins Mill extended 270 overpass.
- Thank you for your service to the residents of Montgomery County.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Juan M. Cardenas", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Juan Cardenas  
Chair



## **UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

March 7, 2012

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
Montgomery County Executive  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

The Upcounty County Citizen's Advisory Board was pleased to host your Upcounty Annual Budget Forum held at the Black Rock Center for the Arts on January 23, 2012. The forums are an excellent venue for receiving input for the FY 2013 from residents. This year's forum was well attended and representatives of various county agencies were on hand to provide additional information.

We support your idea to "do as little harm as possible" to services that have already been impacted by the budget challenges in recent years. Public schools, public safety, libraries, and services for the most vulnerable should be funding priorities. Other county services, including recreation, parks, general services, and housing that are aligned with your priority policy objectives are also important and are often interlinked with other services to provide a comprehensive umbrella for county citizens and should be funded to the extent possible.

It is hoped that the county's continued efforts to develop long-term savings based on the focus on productivity and performance of services and by continuing with plans to reduce the pressure of the capital budget payment obligations on the operating budget are successful. Based on the information we received from our regular meetings and the budget forum, we submit the following recommendations for your consideration.

### **Regional Service Centers**

We support providing sufficient staff for the regional service centers to handle the critical service they provide to the community. The Upcounty Regional Service Center serves the largest geographical area and a large portion of the county's increasingly diverse population. The center continues to provide support for community issues in Clarksburg, Germantown, and Poolesville and many other communities, maintaining key government partnerships with both business and non-profit organizations, and providing assistance to residents.

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
March 7, 2012  
Page Two of Two

### **Public Safety**

The UCAB supports, to the extent possible, the addition of officers for the police department. The citizens enjoy safe and secure neighborhoods due to the high-quality police officers we currently have, but with increase in population and other social and economic pressures, we will need more officers to maintain that level of service.

### **Public Libraries**

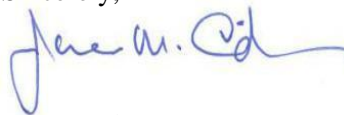
Perhaps no group has been more vocal than the citizens who advocate for the libraries. In this age of new technology growth, the libraries are refocusing services to meet the needs of citizens, providing computer work stations, e-book readers, and access to electronic databases. We support these efforts, noting that libraries are community cultural centers and open doors to education and entertainment for citizens and we are confident that the county will do so in an effective yet financially responsible way.

### **All Services**

We realize the tremendous sacrifice made by all county employees, including those of the school system and Montgomery College, to help balance the budget by forgoing COLAs and step increases. Holding the line on compensation also contributed to the level of sustainability in the budget we have today. Employees need to be recognized for their dedication and commitment to serving the diverse citizens of Montgomery County.

The Upcounty Citizen's Advisory Board and the citizens of the Upcounty region appreciate the opportunity to offer these recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Juan M. Cardenas", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Juan Cardenas  
Chair



## **UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

### **County Council FY 2013 Operating Budget Public Hearing Testimony Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board**

**April 10, 2012**

Good evening Council President Berliner and Councilmembers,

My name is Juan Cardenas, and as Chair of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board, I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the FY 13 operating budget on behalf of the 300,000 upcounty citizens.

It is our belief that the Executive and Council have taken on the task of guiding us through the tough economy and should be commended for choosing a long-range view to address the imbalance of revenues and expenses. We also firmly believe that we are not out of the woods yet. There is growth in the economy but worry about rising fuel and food costs. The budget passed last night in Annapolis presents a challenge. Given these concerns, a path of modest improvements, efforts to find cost savings, and reducing the capital budget and impact of the debt service, is advised.

With lively input and discussion from our friends, neighbors, and citizens, we endorse the plan presented by the County Executive. I would like to highlight the priorities and themes which we believe will help us continue to maintain our county as the best place to live.

Public Safety—we have a great deal of praise for Chief Manger and the exceptional men and women who make up our police force. In spite of economic challenges, they have found a way to decrease crime in the county. We must do our part to continue to target hot spots by providing additional patrol officers and investigators. Along the same lines, Chief Bowers needs additional fire and rescue resources to fill posts and reduce overtime.

Schools—both MCPS and Montgomery College have done their part to get us through a difficult time. Fully funding requests is not throwing away money—but we do ask that you work closely with both agencies to help uncover accountability processes already in place and find new ones if needed.

It is not on the Executive's list but we believe the Regional Services Centers need consideration. Staffing at the Upcounty Center has gone from 7 to 6 to 3 and now one. That one person has central administrative support but no "boots on the ground." Residents continue to seek assistance for all kinds of matters and just the addition of one more full-time position would greatly help.

Recognizing our dedicated employees—for three years, our county government and school employees have shouldered the brunt of reductions by forgoing raises. We need to find a meaningful, yet responsible way to show our gratitude for their dedication and service.

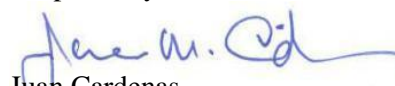
Items that also deserve full funding—libraries, positive youth development, and vital living for seniors.

Paying for these items requires revenue. We expect a comparable tax rate with our neighboring jurisdictions. As mentioned at the beginning, our citizens ask for: continued costs savings, including long-term strategies for pension sustainability; consolidation of services where effective; better accountability through CountyStat and information from schools; and exploring innovative methods of providing services.

Yours is not an easy job. We will do our part to help.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



Juan Cardenas  
Chair



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

April 25, 2012

The Honorable Roger Berliner, President  
Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Berliner:

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) held a joint Land Use and Quality of Life committee meeting on April 23, 2012, during which a public discussion was held on the proposed Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement Act. The advisory board members heard from representatives both for and against the proposal. Both sides presented formidable arguments. After deliberation, the UCAB voted 6 to 5, with 2 abstaining, in favor of supporting the proposed Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement Act.

The majority cited the need to help raise revenue to offset potential shifting of teacher pension responsibilities and the unfavorable effects of the Maryland legislature's "Doomsday" budget. It was acknowledged that most, if not all, of the surrounding jurisdictions also have similar legislation in place and it would be a missed opportunity by "leaving money on the table".

The minority cited the 2010 election in which the voters rejected the Ambulance Fee and the divisive nature of the issue—one that cuts a deeper wedge between career fire fighters and the volunteers.

We realize that this is difficult situation for both County Executive Leggett and the County Council and we thank you for your continued support for Montgomery County and in particular the residents of the Upcounty region.

Sincerely,

Juan Cardenas, Chair  
Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Isiah Leggett





## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

June 7, 2012

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
Montgomery County Executive  
Executive Office Building  
101 Monroe Street, Second Floor  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) hereby respectfully submits a proposal for the renaming of the Gaithersburg Public Library to the Gaithersburg-Montgomery Village Public Library. As you are aware, the Gaithersburg Public Library is currently under renovation with a planned completion and reopening in 2013.

Our request is based on the geographic location and citizens served by this library. The proposed change was discussed at our May 21, 2012 full board meeting and was followed by a unanimous (11-0) vote in favor of the change.

The UCAB understands that for full consideration, this request will require setting in motion Montgomery County Administrative Procedure 5-19.

We thank you for your continued support for Montgomery County and in particular the residents of the Upcounty region.

Sincerely,

Juan Cardenas, Chair  
Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board

Copy to:  
Mr. Roger Berliner, President, Montgomery County Council

# *Upcounty Regional Services Center*



## UPCOUNTY REGIONAL SERVICES CENTER

Isiah Leggett  
*County Executive*

Catherine E. Matthews  
*Director*

Dear Community Friend,

I want to thank the members of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) for their dedication to ensuring that the community's voice is heard on the many important issues that are impacting residents, businesses, places of worship, and small neighborhoods in the northern part of Montgomery County. As our northern region continues to grow, although a little slower, opportunities need to be identified and enjoyed while challenges need to be acknowledged and addressed.

The Board works to be inclusive and encourages residents from all interests and demographic groups to stay informed and get involved in your community. One easy way to do that is to attend the meetings of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board to learn what the pressing issues of the day are and to share your creative ideas for resolving them. The Board reserves time on their meeting agendas to hear from residents and is interested in knowing what you think. There is a lot of talent in our community and we need you to share it in order to nurture the Upcounty region as it continues to evolve in the years ahead. As I have said before, our neighborhoods hold untapped resources like you who are skilled in technology, construction trades, the biosciences, landscaping, teaching, and emergency response, or having that special knack for getting to the core of the issue and encouraging a balanced discussion.

In April, we welcomed the County's Volunteer Center as an agency now housed in the Upcounty Regional Services Center. Check them out at [www.montgomeryserves.org](http://www.montgomeryserves.org). Opportunities for building relationships, mentoring, and just plain good neighboring are found in every community and we have them in the Upcounty.

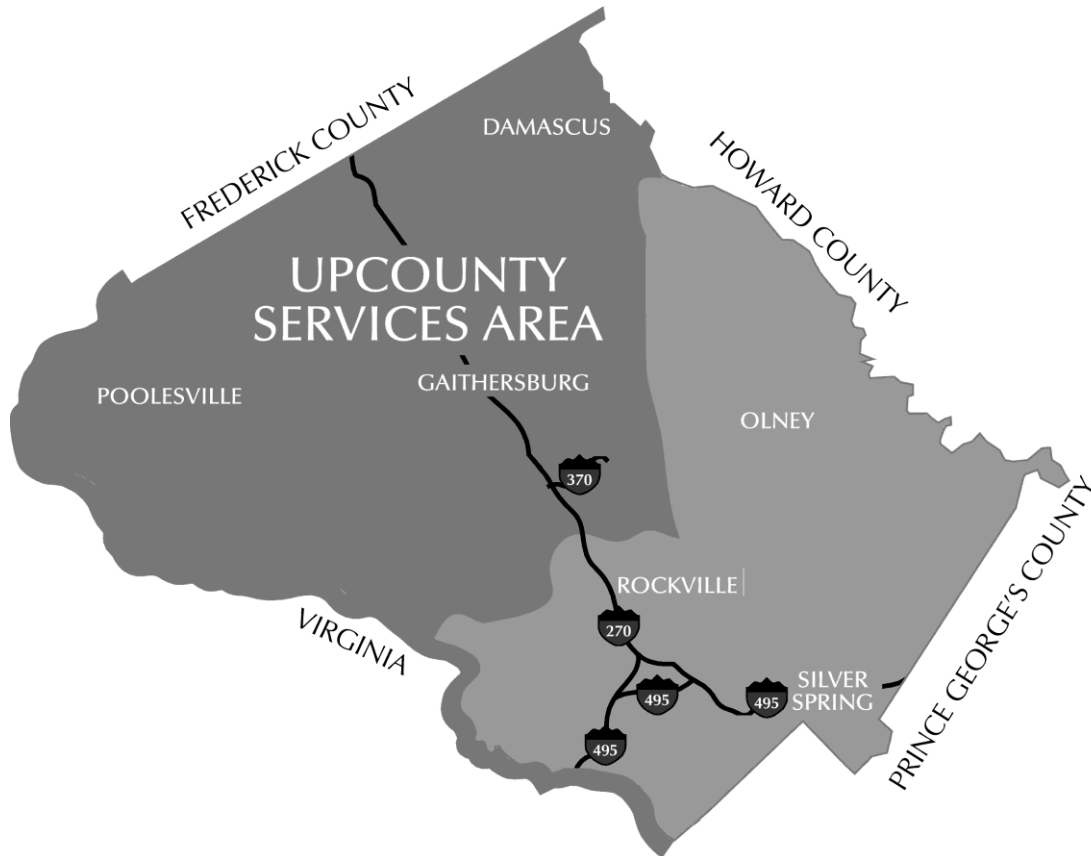
In closing, I also want to thank the many County and State officials, departmental staff, and civic leaders for their time and expertise generously offered to help Board members understand issues and the approaches taken to solve problems.

UCAB has represented this region and county well, and I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with them. Join us. We look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Catherine Matthews  
Director

## *Upcounty Regional Services Boundary Map*



Proudly serving over 280,000 residents of Barnesville, Beallsville, Boyds, Clarksburg, Damascus, Darnestown, Derwood, Dickerson, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Goshen, Laytonsville, Montgomery Village, North Potomac, Poolesville, Tobytown and Washington Grove

# **The Upcounty Regional Services Center**

The Upcounty Regional Services Center (URSC) is a 100,000 square foot facility that, in 2011-2012, housed 10 county agencies and 10 community partner agencies who together offered 28 different services. The Center is located at 12900 Middlebrook Road in Germantown, Maryland and provides a county presence for the northern region of Montgomery County where a third of the county's population or more than 280,000 people reside. The service area encompasses approximately 200 square miles and is bordered on the north by Frederick County, on the east by the Olney area, on the south by the Shady Grove Metro area and Rockville, and on the west by the Potomac River.

## **Administration Office**

The Center is anchored by the Upcounty Regional Services Office (URSO) that functions as a link to the County Executive's Office; coordinates policy making and service delivery that focus on the particular needs of the Upcounty area; offers effective and timely problem-solving assistance to neighborhoods, individuals, community organizations, businesses, and agencies; and coordinates service delivery and assistance to the agencies housed in the Center. More specifically, the office offers an effective, timely liaison between Montgomery County and its citizens and businesses, and works with individuals, community groups, regional citizens advisory boards, and other public agencies to:

- research and disseminate information;
- identify and assess regional problems and issues and facilitate solutions;
- bring community perspective to major policy issues;
- assist with site evaluations for public facilities;
- promote a sense of community; and
- provide general on-site supervision of the center and build collaboration among partner agencies.

Major services provided to the public by the URSO this year included:

- providing information and making referrals for county and other governmental entities about local programs, activities, and community issues;
- assisting individuals, groups, and neighborhoods in developing solutions to local problems;
- leveraging funds/resources for community-based initiatives (i.e. transit station safety);
- providing a county government presence and serving as the public's regional access point for communicating with county government;
- serving as one regional repository and the public's point-of-access for government and regional planning documents (master plans, sector plans, county budgets, Capital Improvements Program, maps, Mid-County Corridor Study, etc.);
- providing technical guidance on County procedures in the planning and implementation of neighborhood, community, and county-wide festivals and educational events (Oktoberfest, Germantown Glory, Celebrate Damascus, etc.)
- providing education and strategic-planning assistance to groups, neighborhoods and communities for local issues; and
- disseminating center and community information and special announcements through the center's webpage, mailing lists, e-newsletter and web-based events calendar.

In a broader effort to bridge the gap between citizen needs and county public services, the Upcounty Regional Services Director regularly looks for opportunities to bring relevant services from a variety of other agencies and organizations to the Center.

## **Other Center Agencies & Services in 2011-2012:**

### **Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County**

**301-942-7700**

Provides dispute prevention, resolution and education to individuals and community organizations. Call to schedule an appointment or visit [www.crcmc.org](http://www.crcmc.org)

### **Gilchrist Welcome Center**

**240-777-6950**

This welcome center for new residents offers information and referral services, County programs and services provided by the County government as well as community organizations and non-profits. At the Upcounty Regional Services Center, the Gilchrist Center offers English as a second language (ESOL), citizenship preparation classes and pro bono legal services. Call for more information regarding other upcoming programs or visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist)

### **Office of Community Partnerships**

**240-777-2503**

The County's Liaison to the African-American and faith communities offers information and problem-solving assistance to residents, neighborhoods, places of worship, and businesses to encourage inclusiveness and engagement in county government initiatives and processes and other civic activities. [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cec](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cec)

### **Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP)**

**301-916-5946**

As a contract partner to the County's Department of Housing and Community Affairs, HIP provides foreclosure intervention counseling for Montgomery County homeowners. Bi-monthly foreclosure prevention workshops are provided followed by a one-on-one appointment with a certified housing counselor to discuss options available for families to remain in their homes or transition into other sustainable housing arrangements. Bilingual counseling services are available. [www.hiphomes.org](http://www.hiphomes.org)

### **MontgomeryWorks (Department of Economic Development/Division of Workforce Services)**

**240-777-2050**

MontgomeryWorks is Montgomery County's "One-Stop Career Center," where the State and County work together to provide free employment and training services to job seekers and employers in one place. For job seekers, the center provides computer access, workshops, job listings, access to career fairs and other career resources. For employers, the center offers employer recruitment events, and employment supportive services. [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ded](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ded)

### **Peppertree Children's Center**

**301-540-1170**

Montgomery County, as part of a commitment to families and children, provides space in many public buildings for community child care. Peppertree Children's Center is a contractor to the Department of Health & Human Services and offers full-time and part-time care for children ages 6 weeks through 12 years. Morning preschool is also offered. NAEYC accredited. [www.peppertreechildrenscenters.com](http://www.peppertreechildrenscenters.com)

### **Department of Health and Human Services**

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs)

#### ***Housing Stabilization Services/Emergency Services***

**240-777-4448**

- Rental assistance
- Eviction prevention
- Foreclosure avoidance
- Court ordered evictions
- Past due or disconnected utilities
- Burial assistance
- Information and referral for food and prescriptions
- Homeless assessment services for families with children

***Income Support Programs*****240-777-3420**

- Temporary Cash Assistance for families
- Food Stamp Program
- Transitional Emergency, Medical and Housing Assistance (TEMHA) for residents who are totally disabled and cannot work
- Medical Assistance

***Public Health*****240-777-3380**

- Maternal and Child case management and home visitation
- “Access” nurse service, including assisting clients with Health Choice access as well as enrolling women into the County maternity program and acting as a health resource to walk-in clients
- Children’s immunization clinics
- Pregnancy tests, information and referral

***Service Eligibility Unit (SEU)*****240-777-3591**

- Helps find health coverage for uninsured Montgomery County residents through: Maryland Children’s Health Program, Prenatal Care, Care for Kids, Dental
- Provides information and phone numbers for food, shelter, and clothing needs (Financial eligibility required)

***Dental Program*****240-777-3290**

- General dental services to children 0-17 years
- General dental services to maternity clients enrolled in the HHS maternity program
- Emergency service limited to preliminary evaluation and provided to children and seniors who are established clients.

***Child Welfare*****240-777-1742**

Continuing protective service, foster care service, case management, and home visitation; assist with family reunification. Aftercare services, in-home monitoring of children returned to families.

***Guide Youth Services*****301-972-0307**

Serves youth and families from five school cluster communities in Clarksburg, Germantown, Damascus, Gaithersburg, and Poolesville. Services include individual and family counseling, psycho-educational/skills groups, information and referral, crisis intervention, community outreach/education, and tutoring. Visit [www.guideprogram.org](http://www.guideprogram.org)

***Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF)*****240-777-2746**

This regional CUPF office offers scheduling of meeting rooms at the Upcounty Regional Services Center, school facilities, library meeting rooms, Executive Office Building space, Council Office Building space, and school fields for community use in the Upcounty area. Visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cupf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cupf)

***Volunteer Center*****240-777-2600**

Individuals, groups, and businesses can register for volunteer opportunities and offer their skills and talents. Student Service Learning (SSL) students can find projects and get credits to fulfill their graduation requirements. Visit [www.montgomeryserves.org](http://www.montgomeryserves.org).

***Office of Human Resources*****240-777-5000**

The Center serves as the main training site for the County’s Office of Human Resources where county

employees are offered workshops, seminars and other training activities as scheduled.  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ohr](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ohr)

**Montgomery County Public Schools**  
***Office of Organizational Development***  
[www.montgomeryschools.org](http://www.montgomeryschools.org)

**301-601-0300**

The mission of the Office is the organizational development of a leading, self-renewing organization focused on achieving the school system goals by strengthening the knowledge, skills, beliefs, and practices of Montgomery County Public School's staff and stakeholders.

***Transportation Services***

**301-840-8130**

This office coordinates and administers transportation services for Montgomery County Public Schools.

**Department of Recreation, Northern Region Office**

**240-777-6840**

A satellite office is provided at the Center for a manager who oversees the various activities and programs offered at recreation centers in the northern part of the county. [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec)

**Maryland Senior Olympics**

**240-777-8080**

The Montgomery County branch office is located at the Center. For information about the program, upcoming events, and event results, visit [www.mdseniorolympics.org](http://www.mdseniorolympics.org)



# *Upcounty Communities*

Barnesville, Beallsville, Dickerson  
Boyds  
Clarksburg and Vicinity  
Damascus  
Darnestown  
Derwood  
Gaithersburg  
Germantown  
Goshen  
Laytonsville  
Montgomery Village  
North Potomac  
Poolesville  
Shady Grove  
Washington Grove

## **UPCOUNTY COMMUNITIES**

### **Barnesville, Beallsville and Dickerson**

Barnesville, Beallsville and Dickerson, three tiny towns by Washington metropolitan area standards, feature many of the County's Rural Rustic Roads, rural zoning ordinances, and preserved open spaces. Although the area has a long history of dairy farming, much of the agriculture in the region consists of full-time and part-time cattle farming, crop farming, nurseries, and, particularly, horse farming. With over 12,000 horses in the County, the equestrian industry continues to grow and to make a nearly \$85 million contribution to the local economy.

These towns and surrounding areas are also home to several industrial facilities, including the Resource Recovery Facility (also known as the incinerator), the Mirant power plant and the privately owned Neutron Products, which handles nuclear material for medical applications. The County's Dickerson Facilities Implementation Group, which is comprised of civic leaders, along with the Sugarloaf Citizens Association, the incorporated Town of Barnesville, and a liaison from the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board, is a strong advocate for regulatory compliance at these facilities and is vigilant about preserving the rural landscape of the region. These civic representatives, the County, the State, and the facilities themselves are ongoing partners in balancing industrial, environmental and community needs.

### **Boyd**

Affectionately known by its residents as "Home in the Country," Boyd is on the edge of the county's prized Agricultural Reserve, adjacent to the developing Germantown area as well as the 1,843 acre Black Hill Regional Park. After a decades-long struggle to prevent the development of a rock quarry, a landfill and a dense housing development, the Boyd community breathed a collective sigh of relief as more than 1,600 acres of previously corporate-owned land was placed in permanent preservation in recent years. The community and neighboring commuters were also pleased when a planned closure of the MARC train station was averted through community efforts and proposed legislation by the county's State delegation. Today, the State is proposing an adjusted schedule for the Brunswick Line that may provide improved service to the community. The County's Department of Transportation responded in FY12 to a community request to provide additional parking spaces for MARC train commuters by re-striping the parking lot.

### **Clarksburg and Vicinity**

Clarksburg was settled in 1752 by William Clark who was a trader with the Seneca Indians. That same year Michael Dowden received a patent for forty acres on what is now Hammerhill Farm where he established a tavern, Dowden's Ordinary, which was the midway stagecoach stop between Georgetown and Frederick City on the Old Frederick Road. The ordinary was visited by many travelers including General Braddock who was encamped there en route to Fort DuQuesne during the French and Indian Wars and Andrew Jackson who dined at the ordinary while traveling to the federal city of Washington. In the mid 1800's Clarksburg was a bustling crossroads with general stores, tanneries, and blacksmith and wheelwright shops serving the local farming community. As the nineteenth century came to a close, the town had become a sleepy hamlet and would continue as such for the entire twentieth century.

Clarksburg is now transitioning from its long bucolic history to its emergence as the county's last town along the I-270 corridor. A recent study was done to determine streetscape design guidelines for the historic district which will provide a distinct identity for the district while complementing the new town center. The first phase of residential development began with the Terrabrook planned town center adding over one hundred new families to Clarksburg by the end of 2002 with an additional 1,200 dwelling units and a town center commercial center with offices, retail and restaurants planned for completion over the next several years. Clarksburg Town Center, now owned and managed by Newland Communities, has been followed by Clarksburg Village, the largest development plan submitted to the Montgomery County Planning Board since Montgomery Village in the 1960's. Several other large residential developments have been completed or are underway or planned such as the Highlands of Clarksburg, Greenway Village (aka Arora Hills), and Cabin Branch which will bring the population to about 30,000 when completed.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission has worked closely with developers and the community to ensure that green space and parklands will be preserved, while Montgomery County Public Schools has planned for additional schools such as the new elementary school and high school which opened in 2006. The County also has plans for a new fire station, additional police presence and recreational facilities to meet the needs and expectations of its residents.

Clarksburg is also home to Montgomery County's correctional facility which opened in March 2003 with a successful transfer of over 600 inmates from the Rockville jail. Staff at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility (MCCF) maintain an open dialogue with the community providing information and responding to concerns at the bi-monthly MCCF Community Advisory Group meetings attended by neighboring residents, civic and business leaders, and government representatives. MCCF Community Advisory Group members are committed to ensuring that the facility meets the needs of the inmates and the security concerns of the community.

This year, County Executive Leggett reached an agreement with two local developers to get major roads completed and several intersections improved and to eliminate a proposed private infrastructure fee for the Clarksburg Village and Arora Hills neighborhoods.

## **Damascus**

Damascus is a rural commercial center and residential community located in the northeast corner of Montgomery County. It has been planned as one of the key points for the County's Agricultural Reserve and Rural Open Space initiatives. The Damascus town center is located at the headwaters of four major stream systems; the Patuxent River, Bennett Creek, Great Seneca Creek, and the Hawlings River, which give it a unique environmental system of great importance to the well-being of the Chesapeake Bay. The Revised Damascus Master Plan, while recognizing its environmental sensitivity by striving to create a green environment through the use of green technologies and reducing land use density in the Patuxent Watershed, provides a moderate amount of growth in and adjoining the town center. Moderate mixed uses in the town center, increased pedestrian and bicycle connections and increased housing opportunities are among the landmarks of the plan. Maintaining the unique contrast to the extensive development in nearby Clarksburg and adjoining counties is a paramount goal of the master plan.

Although not incorporated, Damascus is well-represented by several local organizations that work with County officials on community issues. Local schools are the heart of the community and experienced considerable over-crowding once development of the Clarksburg area was underway. The opening in 2004 of the new Rocky Hill Middle School and in 2006 of Clarksburg High School has since alleviated overcrowding in the Damascus School Cluster. The Damascus Community Recreation Center, which opened in 2004, has become a center of community activities and meetings. The Damascus Heritage Society has established a heritage museum that highlights the history and heritage of the area. Committee members secured former portable classrooms from Montgomery County Public Schools for use as a temporary facility and gathered local artifacts for display. They have sponsored several successful annual fundraisers to obtain the matching funds required for a state grant and have sought the guidance of experienced curators for display design. The museum officially opened during the fall of 2009. The community continues to hold their “Celebrate Damascus!” event in July and a community fair in September.

### **Darnestown**

The Darnestown area is approximately 12 square miles and is centered at the intersection of Darnestown and Seneca Roads. It was originally colonized in the 1750s. Darnestown Road (or Route 28) was an old Indian trail and is recognized as one of the oldest roads in Montgomery County. William Darne of Virginia, married Elizabeth Gassaway, the daughter of a wealthy landowner. They settled at the intersection of Darnestown and Seneca Roads and established an Inn and a tavern. In 1812, the area was named Darnestown in their honor. By the 1820's, the town began to blossom and hosted a wheelwright, the Grist Mill, a blacksmith, a physician, a post office and a variety of other businesses. The stagecoach passed through the area from Georgetown to the river. After the Civil war, Darnestown experienced an economic downturn due to the increased popularity of the railroad, which bypassed the area. The mill business decreased and some farmers tried their hand at tobacco farming. This proved to be unprofitable for most and many people left the area. It wasn't until World War II that Darnestown began to grow and prosper again. This was mainly due to the government hiring more employees and the push for an improved road system.

Approximately 5,000 people live in the Darnestown area today where a small commercial village area exists at the same intersection as more than two and ½ centuries ago and its position along Route 28 is one of the key gateways to the Agricultural Preserve on the Western side of the county. The Darnestown Square Heritage Park that is expected to be completed in 2012 will be an added feature to the community.

### **Derwood**

The small, unincorporated town of Derwood began its development in the late 1800's with the opening of the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O Railroad. Although the town served as a commercial center, it did not experience the accelerated growth that its neighbors, Rockville and Gaithersburg, experienced. In 1954, the Derwood Station was destroyed in a fire, and the town remained mostly undeveloped until the construction of Metro's Shady Grove Station in 1984.

Derwood is now a community of approximately 2,000 residents living primarily in single-family homes adjacent to Lake Needwood. As home to Metro's last stop on the Red Line, the area has become a major transit hub. In keeping with smart growth concepts, the

revised Shady Grove Sector Plan designates the area surrounding the Metro station as a high-density residential and commercial area. Although at this time, the area immediately surrounding the Metro station remains an industrial park, the Smart Growth Initiative Implementation Advisory Group (SGIIAG) has been established by the County Executive to provide advice and guidance on matters relating to or arising out of the implementation of the Montgomery County Smart Growth Initiative. Two UCAB members, Andres Aviles and Kevin Linck, currently serve on SGIIAG.

### **Gaithersburg**

Gaithersburg is in the heart of Montgomery County and is the largest incorporated area in the Upcounty. The city has been recognized nationally as one of the top cities in which to live in the United States and is home to a large number of home-based businesses. It started as a small settlement called Log Town in 1765 and was incorporated as the City of Gaithersburg in 1878. Now the city has a diverse population of more than 52,600 residents with 58% white, 14.5% African American, 14% Asian, and 20% of Hispanic origin. The city is administered by a mayor, city manager and city council government. It also has its own planning commission and board of appeals that oversee development and zoning matters.

Gaithersburg features several mixed-use developments that make use of many “smart growth” concepts which include the Kentlands and Lakelands featuring walkable communities with residences and businesses in close proximity. These communities remain an attractive destination for both consumers and home buyers. The Washingtonian/Rio development also continues to attract large numbers of people to its commercial area. Several new development projects got underway this year and the City continues to be an active stakeholder in the development of the Great Seneca Science Corridor Plan and has representation on the Plan’s advisory committee.

### **Germantown**

The evolution of Germantown from a village crossroads in the 1840’s to its designation in the 1974 *Germantown Master Plan* as a corridor city in the *General Plan* for Montgomery County has been astounding. This 11,000 acre three-by-five mile area bounded by Great and Little Seneca Creeks and bisected by I-270 was to be developed into a “new community” similar to Columbia and Reston. However, because of fragmented land ownership, Germantown could not be developed by a single developer. To offset this problem, the County government assumed the role of coordinator, working with multiple landowners to create a cohesive “new town.” This approach was a first in the United States with local government attempting to guide and stage development through its planning, zoning, subdivision, and capital programming processes.

The 1989 revision of the master plan recommended some changes that would make the town center the principal activity center for Germantown and would establish a residential character in selected areas with single-family detached homes to provide a broader mix of housing types so that Germantown could evolve into a full life-cycle community. The projected proportion of



single-family detached homes was increased from 18% to 29% as the proportion of single-family attached and multi-unit dwellings was decreased from 58% to 31%.

Efforts of county staff, the local chamber of commerce, and developers are defining the town center even more as recommended in a recent report by the Urban Land Institute. The report identifies and defines a new business district for the town that should increase the number of jobs in the community. The Department of Economic Development has staff assigned to concentrate efforts in attracting large employers to Germantown and the immediate success of the Germantown Transit Center will support commuting needs of that new workforce. The 1989 master plan was updated in the fall of 2009 with the approval of the County Council to focus on the development of Germantown's employment sector as a major priority.

Germantown residents are now seeing the fruition of the town center as it continues to develop with office and retail establishments, restaurants, the activities of the new library, a hotel, and plans for an urban park. In reaction to this development, older commercial areas have initiated renovations to attract major retailers and to extend the feel of the town center's architecture. This has not come too soon for the 80,000 plus residents who are enjoying the ambiance that Germantown offers to all ages and ethnicities. New signage now announces upcoming performances at the BlackRock Center for the Arts which is located in the heart of the town center and not too far away, the Discovery Sports Center and SoccerPlex has served as home and practice fields for two professional soccer teams, the Washington Freedom and the D.C. United. A new cricket field was added this year in the South Germantown Recreational Park and it is used by the Montgomery County Cricket Association that boasts 40 teams in the county. The park also witnessed a groundbreaking ceremony was hosted by Jack Schore Tennis for the new Montgomery TennisPlex that is expected to open in fall 2012 and feature a community tennis center with eight air-conditioned indoor and four lighted outdoor tennis courts in South Germantown Recreational Park.

## **Goshen**

Goshen, an unincorporated community of about 15,000 residents with a minimum of two-acre zoning, has a picturesque landscape of rolling hills separated by streams and creeks providing abundant water through-out the land. It had its beginnings in 1743 when a land grant consisting of Benjamin's Square and Land of Goshen was deeded to Benjamin Woolingford. By 1790 there were two mills built by the Pigman family, a copper mine and log cabin used as the mill store on property known as Pigman's Purchase. Later that log cabin became part of the Goshen store and post office. Prosperous farmers grew tobacco, corn and wheat on this fertile land and remained for many generations. As a result, there are many historical homes in Goshen including Woodbourne Plantation, Fertile Meadows, Avalon and Black and White Inn which was the only establishment where African American travelers could stay during the era of segregation. Prathertown, also located in Goshen, is one of the oldest African American communities in the county. It was founded in 1883 by emancipated slaves. The Greater Goshen Civic Association and Goshen Historical Preservation Society are dedicated to preserving Goshen's quality of life, looking to the future while preserving its rich history for generations to come.

## **Laytonsville**

Laytonsville, originally known as Cracklintown for its renowned crackling bread, was founded in 1782 by John Layton. The original town extended beyond its current municipal limits along Sundown Road toward the Hawlings River. Route 108 was built in the early 1800's to

transport cattle and pigs to the markets in Baltimore making the town a popular spot for the overnight stay of drovers. Substantial brick buildings, including the Layton House, were constructed during this time. Another factor in the development of the town is its fertile soil that has drawn farmers for over two centuries. The town does not yet have public water, but as a result of issues with water quality and the plans for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to construct water lines to nearby developing areas, town residents have the opportunity to hook-up to public water. Town officials continue to work with WSSC to have water service targeted for 2013-2014. The town is governed by a mayor and town council who meet with residents on the first Tuesday of each month. Today, it is home to over 300 residents who are proud of their beautiful, historically preserved town.

### **Montgomery Village**

Montgomery Village is home to more than 40,000 residents. It is one of the first planned communities in the area and has come to reflect the diversity of Metropolitan Washington. The Village is located northeast of the Gaithersburg incorporated city limits and is managed by the Montgomery Village Foundation, Inc., headed by its executive vice president, and a board of directors who work with the County and State on a variety of issues and concerns. The Foundation publishes a bi-weekly newspaper and provides residents with recreation programs, maintenance of common areas, architectural standards, and other amenities.

The Foundation and individual neighborhoods continue to work with the County in designing the Webb Tract for the relocation of facilities from the County Service Park. Other topics of concern for the community are the continuation of Mid-county Highway and the options that will be presented when the Village's town sector zoning period expires. The County's Planning Department kick-off the Gaithersburg East Master Plan review in a meeting with the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board.

This past year, planning charrettes were held with residents who focused on future development options for the Village's shopping center, the professional office park, a parcel at the intersection of Montgomery Village Avenue and Lost Knife Road, and the golf course. The Montgomery Village Foundation is now working to implement that vision.

### **North Potomac**

The North Potomac community, which can be found southwest of Route 28 and northwest of Shady Grove Road, must balance the desire to maintain the advantages of small, older communities with the need to incorporate new development. Although no new roads are immediately planned for the area, this community is not a part of the Agricultural Reserve and is experiencing new public and private development. New homes, senior housing, and commercial buildings have recently been built in the Travilah area of North Potomac establishing the new town center of Traville. The Planning Board staff held several community-wide meetings to present proposals for the Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan and to obtain community input and comment. The Plan, approved by the County Council, has received a considerable amount of testimony from residents and businesses. The plan addresses the development of the Belward Farm property by Johns Hopkins University as part of the County's plan for a world class life sciences center. Other master plan recommendations included the relocation of the Public Safety Training Academy to allow for dense residential development to provide housing for employees of the various life sciences employers, and the realignment of

the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT). The density of the proposed development elicited great concern from the North Potomac community in general, especially those communities closest to the Belward and Life Sciences Center properties. Continued dialogue with community interest groups was essential in developing the final draft of the master plan. The UCAB facilitated several meetings with representatives from neighborhoods directly affected to encourage an open and healthy debate. The Master Plan's size was reduced and County officials will revisit the plan in six years. In the meantime, resident representatives serve on the Great Seneca Science Corridor Advisory Committee.

### **Poolesville**

The incorporated town of Poolesville, named after its first resident, John Poole II, is largely independent with its own elected commissioners; the local government works in tandem with Montgomery County. The largest of the "small towns" in western Upcounty, Poolesville retains much of its rural charm while addressing issues of growth, crime and transportation. The community remains close-knit, and most residents consider Poolesville to be the County's most desirable place to live. In that spirit, the entire town comes out each September to celebrate the community's culture and history at Poolesville Days.

### **Shady Grove**

A development plan for the Shady Grove Sector, which is the area surrounding the Shady Grove Metro station, was approved by the County Council in late 2006 and it incorporates smart growth principles. This area currently houses many of the County's industrial centers, such as bus depots, a liquor warehouse and the MCPS Food and Nutrition Services Center. The sector plan vision will transform the area into a mixed-use, transit-oriented community with amenities that will support and protect nearby residential neighborhoods. An executive team has identified and negotiated the purchase of properties for the relocation of the service park facilities currently within the sector's boundaries. This group, which includes the Upcounty Regional Services Center staff, has also worked closely with the communities which are located near the proposed relocation sites. Details and updates about the Smart Growth Initiative can be found at

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/puitmpl.asp?url=/Content/EXEC/cpus/index.asp>.

County Executive Leggett has also established the Smart Growth Initiative Implementation Advisory Group which includes county staff, business, educational, and technical advisors, as well as representatives of civic organizations, to provide advice on the development of this plan. In addition, the Shady Grove Sector Plan Advisory Committee, a group of residents who meet monthly with county planners, continues to monitor the implementation of the sector plan recommendations assuring that they are followed and that any problems are promptly brought to the attention of the Planning Board or County Council.

### **Washington Grove**

More than a century ago, members of the Methodist congregations in Washington, D.C., searching for a cool, quiet spot for retreats, set up their tents in the wooded oasis that is now Washington Grove. This oak-shaded town, which retains its historic charm and summer-camp feel, is still a refuge from city life. Roy McCathran, the town's first mayor, referred poetically to Washington Grove as "...a town within a forest, an oasis of tranquility and a rustic jewel in the diadem of the great free state of Maryland." Amazingly, this is as true today as it was in 1937



when he spoke these words. The dramatic effect has been heightened by the intense urban development now surrounding Washington Grove. Only about a dozen paved roads pass through the cluster of 216 homes, most fronted by gravel and grass walkways originally designed to protect passersby from being trampled by horses. About 60% of the town's 200-plus acres is green space. There are two forest preserves, several parks, and a small lake where residents swim in the summer and skate in winter.

The Town of Washington Grove continues to be a vibrant community governed by its mayor and town council. The town's website contains updated information on the town officials, committees, facilities, town charter, ordinances and master plan as well as its continuing interest in the development of the Shady Grove area including the county service park relocation and the development of the Inter-County Connector which is now completed.

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